

REMARKS

The present Amendment provides an Abstract of the Disclosure on a separate sheet and modifies the claim format.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently herewith.

The examination and allowance of the Application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By:


Benton S. Duffett, Jr.
Registration No. 22,030

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: December 6, 2001

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated December 6, 2001

Marked-up Claims -

1. (Amended) Kit for diagnosing disc herniation,
[characterized in that it comprises] comprising antigens from nucleus pulposus cells
for determining [an optional] the presence of antibodies to nucleus pulposus.

2. (Amended) [The use of an anti-antibody to antibodies to nucleus pulposus
cells in the manufacture of a medicament] A method for the treatment of disc herniation
comprising administering an effective amount of an anti-antibody to antibodies of nucleus
pulposus cells to a patient in need of such treatment.

3. (Amended) [The use of a false antibody to nucleus pulposus cells in the
manufacture of a medicament] A method for the treatment of disc herniation comprising
administering an effective amount of a false antibody to nucleus pulposus cells to a patient
in need of such treatment, which false antibody is able to bind to and block the antigen in
such a way that an immunological reaction is inhibited.

4. (Amended) [The use of soluble antigens from nucleus pulposus cells in the
manufacture of a medicament or a diagnostic means] A method or for the diagnosis or
treatment of disc herniation comprising administering any effective amount of soluble
antigens from nucleus pulposus cells to a patient in need of treatment.

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Marked-up Claims -

5. (Amended) [Method] A method for treating disc herniation[, whereby]
comprising administering to a patient in need of treatment a therapeutically efficient amount
of a compound that prevents the binding of serum antibodies to nucleus pulposus cells to
bind to nucleus pulposus.

6. (Amended) [Method] A method for treating disc herniation[, whereby]
comprising administering a therapeutically [efficient] effective amount of an anti-antibody
to antibodies of nucleus pulposus cells [is administered].

7. (Amended) [Method] A method for treating disc herniation[, whereby]
comprising administering a therapeutically [efficient] effective amount of a false antibody to
nucleus pulposus [is administered], which false antibody is able to bind to and block the
antigen in such a way that an immunological reaction is inhibited.

8. (Amended) [Method] A method for treating disc herniation[, whereby]
comprising administering a therapeutically [efficient] effective amount of soluble antigens
from nucleus pulposus cells [is administered].